

REMARKS/ ARGUMENTS

The foregoing amendment and the following arguments are provided to impart precision to the claims, by more particularly pointing out the invention, rather than to avoid prior art.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 19, 20, 23, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,732,282 (hereinafter "Provino") in view of Admit Prior Art (APA).

To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). (Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) ¶ 2143.03).

Applicant's independent claims include limitations that are not disclosed nor suggested by Provino. Therefore, applicant's independent claims are patentable over Provino.

In particular, applicant's independent claims, as amended, include the limitation, or limitation similar thereto, of a receiving and storing information from a first unit that comprises at least one of error information, status information, and configuration information, receiving a request for the information from a second unit, and

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providing to the second unit, the information received prior to and subsequent to the request from the second unit.

The amended claims limitation, set forth above, is not disclosed nor referenced by Provino. Rather, Provino only discloses:

The invention provides an arrangement, comprising a virtual device driver registry that is local to each computer system, which eliminates the necessity of having globally-unique identifiers for the virtual device drivers which may be called by applications programs and other virtual device drivers. (See Summary of Provino, col. 1, lines 48-53).

Therefore, considering the Provino reference does not disclose the claimed limitations, applicant's independent claims are patentable over the Provino reference.

Furthermore, the remaining dependent claims, by way of being dependent on the independent claims, include the distinguishing claim limitations discussed above, and are therefore also patentable over the Provino reference.

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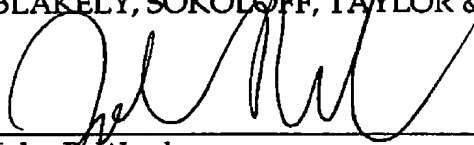
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call John Ward at (408) 720-8300, x237.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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